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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Schweinrich Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 23 October 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 13 and 15 September 1951, six artillery pieces northwest of Neu-Lutterow in the Schweinrich (N 54/U 22) training area fired in a southerly direction. The impacts were south of the Schweinrich-Zechlin road. Twelve artillery pieces, apparently rocket launchers, fired from the area northeast of Zootzen toward the northeast on 15 September. Sixteen T-34 tanks were seen moving along the road from Zechlin toward Neuruppin on 20 September. A convey of about 60 motor vehicles which were camouflaged with branches, followed the tanks about 10 minutes later. Driving-school trucks seen in the Schweinrich area

2. A combat group of two SU-249 SP guns 1 T-34/85 tank carrying infantry troops, 1 jeep, 3 trucks and a radio car was seen north of Roseneck estate at about 2 p.m. on 20 September. Falling back in leap-frog manner from hill to hill they withdrew to the southern perimeter of Schweinrich under mutual protective fire of blank cartridges. The two SP guns protected the unit withdrawing toward Hill 90 from Auf dem Kootzen where they were in reverse-slope position. The two hills were between 800 and 1,000 meters apart. A mixed combat team of 100 to 120 vehicles of all types without camouflage or protection against air observation was scattered throughout the area along either side of the road to Dossow about 1.5 km northwest of Zootzen at about 3:30 p.m. An armored point, clear for action and with the turret hatches closed, advanced on either side of the Dossow-Schweinrich road at about 3:45 p.m. Next came 20 T-34/85 tanks and several AT guns which in a width and depth of about 1,000 meters, crossed the Mittstock-Zoot road in a northeasterly direction. The advance party which moved along the Dossow-Schweinrich road about 2,000 meters later was deployed as follows: jeep occupied by a high-ranking officer with tank insignia; 8 T-34/85 tanks 2 light SP guns; 1 radio car; 10 to 15 SU-249 SP guns; 26 trucks, each occupied by about 35 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets; and 6 field kitchens. Most of the combat unit which followed 20 to 25 minutes later had this formation: 1 BA-64 armored scout car; 1 jeep; 4 six-wheel armored personnel carriers mounting troops;

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8 sidecar motorcycles; 3 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns; 4 to 6 radio trucks; 4 field kitchens; 6 to 10 tank trucks; and 40 to 50 trucks carrying luggage and ammunition. A biplane circled above the area where the unit assembled and subsequently launched the advance. The first reports of tank guns were heard from northeast about 20 minutes after the armored point started moving. There was also submachine gun firing and the sound of firing gradually faded in the distance.

units assembled, the telephone line was laid toward the Siebmansherst settlement by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. there was a gun position there.

the exercise began on 19 September, with the simulated enemy group defending Zootzen and that the tank unit involved withdrew from Zootzen toward north during the night after intensive firing. The exercise was still going on south of Schweinrich at about 9 p.m.

3. No movements were noticed in the Wittstock-Schweinrich-Zootzen area on 2 October. Numerous machine gun positions and foxholes were seen south of Schweinrich and on Auf dem Kootzen, and numerous imprints of tank tracks indicated the employment of tanks. The parking lot for tanks on the east tip of Dransor Lake was vacant. However, numerous motor vehicles were parked in the woods east of the parking lot. Artillery pieces, about 1.5 km northeast of the parking lot, fired individual shots toward south. JS tank was engaged in driving practice in the training area.

From 20 to 30 air force soldiers were quartered at Rosenock Estate. Truck stood in a shed. \*

- \* Comment. Most of the driving-school trucks and other motor vehicles identified in the Schweinrich training area belong to the 18th Necz Div, some to the 94th Gds Ritz Rifle Div and to Headquarters units of the IX Ritz Rifle Corps. Truck belongs to the air force. The purpose of the exercise observed on 19 and 20 September 1951 probably was to train troops in delaying action against superior forces with emphasis apparently laid on deployment for action from march formation under protective cover of artillery fire. A division into an advance party and a main body is clearly indicated. the advance party was organized only into an advance point and into an element which probably was the advance party. The Russian employment of a strong armored point protected by additional AT guns resembles a practice previously observed in Templin. The exercise observed in Templin, as well as the one described in the present report, tends to indicate that, in the Soviet Army, advance units are organized into only one advance element which, however, is extremely powerful, and is followed at about 1,500 to 2,000 meters by the advance guard support and main body. The tactical symbol probably belongs to the 18th Necz Div. Paragraph 3 confirms the exercises held in the area of Schweinrich-Zootzen.

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